

26. (Amended) The composition of claim 22 in which the protein is [covalently or noncovalently] bound to the material.

27. (Amended) A composition comprising a chimeric protein [bound to a material comprising an active agent, in which the chimeric protein comprises], which chimeric protein comprises (i) a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-55 or a binding portion thereof, fused via a covalent bond to (ii) an amino acid sequence of a second protein, [in which the] wherein the chimeric protein is bound to a material comprising an active agent [is] of value in the treatment of a mammalian disease or disorder.

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28. (Amended) A composition comprising [the protein of claim 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 14, 18, 19, or 20,] a purified protein which specifically binds a gastro-intestinal tract receptor, which receptor is selected from the group consisting of HPT1 (SEQ ID NO:178), hPEPT1 (SEQ ID NO:176), D2H (SEQ ID NO:179), and hSI (SEQ ID NO:181), wherein the purified protein is covalently bound to a particle containing a drug.

29. (Amended) A composition comprising [the protein of claim 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 14, 18, 19, or 20,] a purified protein which specifically binds a gastro-intestinal tract receptor, which receptor is selected from the group consisting of HPT1 (SEQ ID NO:178), hPEPT1 (SEQ ID NO:176), D2H (SEQ ID NO:179), and hSI (SEQ ID NO:181), wherein the purified protein is covalently bound to a drug.

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70. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising [the protein of claim 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 14, 18, 19, or 20,] a purified protein which specifically binds a gastro-intestinal tract receptor, which receptor is selected from the group consisting of HPT1 (SEQ ID NO:178), hPEPT1 (SEQ ID NO:176), D2H (SEQ ID NO:179), and hSI (SEQ ID NO:181); and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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73. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of [the protein of claim 71,] a chimeric protein comprising

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(i) a first protein comprising at least 6 contiguous amino acids of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-55, said contiguous amino acids being capable of specifically binding to a gastro-intestinal tract receptor selected from the group consisting of HPT1 (SEQ ID NO:178), hPEPT1 (SEQ ID NO:176), D2H (SEQ ID NO:179), and hSI (SEQ ID NO:181), said first protein being fused via a covalent bond to (ii) a second protein, said second protein being a drug; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

74. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of [the nucleic acid of claim 78] a nucleic acid encoding a chimeric protein comprising (i) a first protein comprising at least 6 contiguous amino acids of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-55, said contiguous amino acids capable of specifically binding to a gastro-intestinal tract receptor selected from the group consisting of HPT1 (SEQ ID NO:178), hPEPT1 (SEQ ID NO:176), D2H (SEQ ID NO:179), and hSI (SEQ ID NO:181), said first protein being fused via a covalent bond to (ii) a second protein, said second protein being a drug; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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81. (Amended) A composition comprising [the protein of claim 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 14, 18, 19, 20, or 46] a purified protein which specifically binds a gastro-intestinal tract receptor, which receptor is selected from the group consisting of HPT1 (SEQ ID NO:178), hPEPT1 (SEQ ID NO:176), D2H (SEQ ID NO:179), and hSI (SEQ ID NO:181), wherein the protein is coated onto or absorbed onto or covalently bonded to the surface of a nano- or microparticle.

82. (Amended) A nano- or microparticle formed from [the protein of claim 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 14, 18, 19, 20, or 46] a purified protein which specifically binds a gastro-intestinal tract receptor, which receptor is selected from the group consisting of HPT1 (SEQ ID NO:178), hPEPT1 (SEQ ID NO:176), D2H (SEQ ID NO:179), and hSI (SEQ ID NO:181).

[Please add the following new claims:]

98. (New) The composition of claim 22, in which the protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-55 or a binding portion thereof.

99. (New) The composition of claim 22, in which the amino acid sequence of the protein is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-55, or a binding portion thereof.

100. (New) The composition of claim 22, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: Xaa₁ Thr Xaa₂ Xaa₃ Ser Xaa₄ Xaa₅ Xaa₆ Asn Xaa₇ Arg (SEQ ID NO:253), where Xaa₁ is Ser or Thr; Xaa₂ is Arg or Lys; Xaa₃ is Lys or Arg; Xaa₄ is Ser or Leu; Xaa₅ is Arg, Ile, Val, or Ser; Xaa₆ is Ser, Tyr, Phe, or His; and Xaa₇ is Pro, His or Arg.

101. (New) The composition of claim 22, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: Asp Xaa₁ Asp Xaa₂ Arg Arg Xaa₃ Xaa₄ (SEQ ID NO:254) where Xaa₁ is Ser, Ala, or Gly; Xaa₂ is Val or Gln; Xaa₃ is Pro, Gly, or Ser; and Xaa₄ is Trp or Tyr.

102. (New) The composition of claim 22, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: Val Arg Ser Gly Cys Gly Xaa₁ Xaa₂ Ser Ser (SEQ ID NO:255), where Xaa₁ is Ala or Phe; and Xaa₂ is Arg or His.

103. (New) The composition of claim 22, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: NTRKSSRSNPR (SEQ ID NO:256) or STKRSLIYNHR (SEQ ID NO:257) or STGRKVFNRR (SEQ ID NO:258) or TNAKHSSHNR (SEQ ID NO:259).

104. (New) The composition of claim 22, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: DSDVRRPW (SEQ ID NO:260) or AADQRRGW (SEQ ID NO:261) or DGRGGRSY (SEQ ID NO:262).

105. (New) The composition of claim 22, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: RVRS (SEQ ID NO:263) or SVRSGCGFRGSS (SEQ ID NO:264) or SVRGGCGAHSS (SEQ ID NO:265).

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106. (New) The composition of claim 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, or 105, wherein the protein is not more than 40 amino acids in length.

107. (New) The composition of claim 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, or 105, wherein the protein is not more than 30 amino acids in length.

108. (New) The composition of claim 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, or 105, wherein the protein is not more than 20 amino acids in length.

109. (New) The composition of claim 28, in which the protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-55 or a binding portion thereof.

110. (New) The composition of claim 28, in which the protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-55, or a binding portion thereof.

111. (New) The composition of claim 28, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: Xaa₁ Thr Xaa₂ Xaa₃ Ser Xaa₄ Xaa₅ Xaa₆ Asn Xaa₇ Arg (SEQ ID NO:253), where Xaa₁ is Ser or Thr; Xaa₂ is Arg or Lys; Xaa₃ is Lys or Arg; Xaa₄ is

Ser or Leu; Xaa₅ is Arg, Ile, Val, or Ser; Xaa₆ is Ser, Tyr, Phe, or His; and Xaa₇ is Pro, His or Arg.

112. (New) The composition of claim 28, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: Asp Xaa₁ Asp Xaa₂ Arg Arg Xaa₃ Xaa₄ (SEQ ID NO:254) where Xaa₁ is Ser, Ala, or Gly; Xaa₂ is Val or Gln; Xaa₃ is Pro, Gly, or Ser; and Xaa₄ is Trp or Tyr.

113. (New) The composition of claim 28, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: Val Arg Ser Gly Cys Gly Xaa₁ Xaa₂ Ser Ser (SEQ ID NO:255), where Xaa₁ is Ala or Phe; and Xaa₂ is Arg or His.

114. (New) The composition of claim 28, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: NTRKSSRSNPR (SEQ ID NO:256) or STKRSLIYNHR (SEQ ID NO:257) or STGRKVFNRR (SEQ ID NO:258) or TNAKHSSHNR (SEQ ID NO:259).

115. (New) The composition of claim 28, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: DSDVRRPW (SEQ ID NO:260) or AADQRRGW (SEQ ID NO:261) or DGRGGRSY (SEQ ID NO:262).

116. (New) The composition of claim 28, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: RVR (SEQ ID NO:263) or SVRSGCGFRGSS (SEQ ID NO:264) or SVRGGCGAHSS (SEQ ID NO:265).

117. (New) The composition of claim 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, or 116, wherein the protein is not more than 40 amino acids in length.

118. (New) The composition of claim 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, or 116, wherein the protein is not more than 30 amino-acids in length.

119. (New) The composition of claim 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, or 116, wherein the protein is not more than 20 amino acids in length.

120. (New) The composition of claim 29, in which the protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-55 or a binding portion thereof.

121. (New) The composition of claim 29, in which the amino acid sequence of the protein is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-55, or a binding portion thereof.

122. (New) The composition of claim 29, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: Xaa₁ Thr Xaa₂ Xaa₃ Ser Xaa₄ Xaa₅ Xaa₆ Asn Xaa₇ Arg (SEQ ID NO:253), where Xaa₁ is Ser or Thr; Xaa₂ is Arg or Lys; Xaa₃ is Lys or Arg; Xaa₄ is Ser or Leu; Xaa₅ is Arg, Ile, Val, or Ser; Xaa₆ is Ser, Tyr, Phe, or His; and Xaa₇ is Pro, His or Arg.

123. (New) The composition of claim 29, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: Asp Xaa₁ Asp Xaa₂ Arg Arg Xaa₃ Xaa₄ (SEQ ID NO:254) where Xaa₁ is Ser, Ala, or Gly; Xaa₂ is Val or Gln; Xaa₃ is Pro, Gly, or Ser; and Xaa₄ is Trp or Tyr.

124. (New) The composition of claim 29, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: Val Arg Ser Gly Cys Gly Xaa₁ Xaa₂ Ser Ser (SEQ ID NO:255), where Xaa₁ is Ala or Phe; and Xaa₂ is Arg or His.

125. (New) The composition of claim 29, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: NTRKSSRSNPR (SEQ ID NO:256) or STKRSLIYNHR (SEQ ID NO:257) or STGRKVFNRR (SEQ ID NO:258) or TNAKHSSHNR (SEQ ID NO:259).

126. (New) The composition of claim 29, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: DSDVRRPW (SEQ ID NO:260) or AADQRRGW (SEQ ID NO:261) or DGRGGRSY (SEQ ID NO:262).

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127. (New) The composition of claim 29, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: RVRS (SEQ ID NO:263) or SVRSGCGFRGSS (SEQ ID NO:264) or SVRGCGCAHSS (SEQ ID NO:265).

128. (New) The composition of claim 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, or 127, wherein the protein is not more than 40 amino acids in length.

129. (New) The composition of claim 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, or 127, wherein the protein is not more than 30 amino acids in length.

130. (New) The composition of claim 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, or 127, wherein the protein is not more than 20 amino acids in length.

131. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 70, in which the protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-55 or a binding portion thereof.

132. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 70, in which the amino acid sequence of the protein is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-55, or a binding portion thereof.

133. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 70, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: Xaa₁ Thr Xaa₂ Xaa₃ Ser Xaa₄ Xaa₅ Xaa₆ Asn Xaa₇ Arg (SEQ ID NO:253), where Xaa₁ is Ser or Thr; Xaa₂ is Arg or Lys; Xaa₃ is Lys or Arg; Xaa₄ is Ser or Leu; Xaa₅ is Arg, Ile, Val, or Ser; Xaa₆ is Ser, Tyr, Phe, or His; and Xaa₇ is Pro, His or Arg.

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134. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 70, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: Asp Xaa₁ Asp Xaa₂ Arg Arg Xaa₃ Xaa₄ (SEQ ID NO:254) where Xaa₁ is Ser, Ala, or Gly; Xaa₂ is Val or Gln; Xaa₃ is Pro, Gly, or Ser; and Xaa₄ is Trp or Tyr.

135. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 70, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: Val Arg Ser Gly Cys Gly Xaa₁ Xaa₂ Ser Ser (SEQ ID NO:255), where Xaa₁ is Ala or Phe; and Xaa₂ is Arg or His.

136. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 70, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: NTRKSSRSNPR (SEQ ID NO:256) or STKRSLIYNHR (SEQ ID NO:257) or STGRKVFNRR (SEQ ID NO:258) or TNAKHSSHNR (SEQ ID NO:259).

137. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 70, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: DSDVRRPW (SEQ ID NO:260) or AADQRRGW (SEQ ID NO:261) or DGRGGRSY (SEQ ID NO:262).

138. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 70, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: RVRS (SEQ ID NO:263) or SVRSGCGFRGSS (SEQ ID NO:264) or SVRGGCGAHSS (SEQ ID NO:265).

139. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, or 138, wherein the protein is not more than 40 amino acids in length.

140. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, or 138, wherein the protein is not more than 30 amino acids in length.

141. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, or 138, wherein the protein is not more than 20 amino acids in length.

142. (New) The composition of claim 81, wherein the nano- or microparticle is a drug-loaded or drug-encapsulating nano- or microparticle.

143. (New) The composition of claim 81, in which the protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-55, or a binding portion thereof.

144. (New) The composition of claim 81, in which the amino acid sequence of the protein is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-55, or a binding portion thereof.

145. (New) The composition of claim 81, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: Xaa₁ Thr Xaa₂ Xaa₃ Ser Xaa₄ Xaa₅ Xaa₆ Asn Xaa₇ Arg (SEQ ID NO:253), where Xaa₁ is Ser or Thr; Xaa₂ is Arg or Lys; Xaa₃ is Lys or Arg; Xaa₄ is Ser or Leu; Xaa₅ is Arg, Ile, Val, or Ser; Xaa₆ is Ser, Tyr, Phe, or His; and Xaa₇ is Pro, His or Arg.

146. (New) The composition of claim 81, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: Asp Xaa₁ Asp Xaa₂ Arg Arg Xaa₃ Xaa₄ (SEQ ID NO:254) where Xaa₁ is Ser, Ala, or Gly; Xaa₂ is Val or Gln; Xaa₃ is Pro, Gly, or Ser; and Xaa₄ is Trp or Tyr.

147. (New) The composition of claim 81, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: Val Arg Ser Gly Cys Gly Xaa₁ Xaa₂ Ser Ser (SEQ ID NO:255), where Xaa₁ is Ala or Phe; and Xaa₂ is Arg or His.

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148. (New) The composition of claim 81, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: NTRKSSRSNPR (SEQ ID NO:256) or STKRSLIYNHR (SEQ ID NO:257) or STGRKVFNRR (SEQ ID NO:258) or TNAKHSSHNR (SEQ ID NO:259).

149. (New) The composition of claim 81, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: DSDVRRPW (SEQ ID NO:260) or AADQRRGW (SEQ ID NO:261) or DGRGGRSY (SEQ ID NO:262).

150. (New) The composition of claim 81, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: RVRS (SEQ ID NO:263) or SVRSGCGFRGSS (SEQ ID NO:264) or SVRGGCGAHSS (SEQ ID NO:265).

151. (New) The composition of claim 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, or 150, wherein the protein is not more than 40 amino acids in length.

152. (New) The composition of claim 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, or 150, wherein the protein is not more than 30 amino acids in length.

153. (New) The composition of claim 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, or 150, wherein the protein is not more than 20 amino acids in length.

154. (New) The nano- or microparticle of claim 82, in which the protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-55, or a binding portion thereof.

155. (New) The nano- or microparticle of claim 82, in which the amino acid sequence of the protein is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-55, or a binding portion thereof.

156. (New) The nano- or microparticle of claim 82, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: Xaa₁ Thr Xaa₂ Xaa₃ Ser Xaa₄ Xaa₅ Xaa₆ Asn Xaa₇ Arg (SEQ ID NO:253), where Xaa₁ is Ser or Thr; Xaa₂ is Arg or Lys; Xaa₃ is Lys or Arg; Xaa₄ is Ser or Leu; Xaa₅ is Arg, Ile, Val, or Ser; Xaa₆ is Ser, Tyr, Phe, or His; and Xaa₇ is Pro, His or Arg.

157. (New) The nano- or microparticle of claim 82, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: Asp Xaa₁ Asp Xaa₂ Arg Arg Xaa₃ Xaa₄ (SEQ ID NO:254) where Xaa₁ is Ser, Ala, or Gly; Xaa₂ is Val or Gln; Xaa₃ is Pro, Gly, or Ser; and Xaa₄ is Trp or Tyr.

158. (New) The nano- or microparticle of claim 82, in which the protein is not more than 50 amino acids in length and includes, positioned anywhere along its sequence, the contiguous amino acid sequence of: Val Arg Ser Gly Cys Gly Xaa₁ Xaa₂ Ser Ser (SEQ ID NO:255), where Xaa₁ is Ala or Phe; and Xaa₂ is Arg or His.